

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 10429 100953Z

15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 100630Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9350

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

S E C R E T TEHRAN 10429

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, IZ, JO

SUB: KING HUSSEIN'S INTERMEDIARY ROLE

1. HAVING NOTED VARIOUS REPORTS ABOUT KING HUSSEIN'S ALLEGED ROLE AS INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ, ASKED MINISTER OF COURT ALAM MONDAY EVENING IF THIS WERE TRUE AND WHAT WAS HAPPENING. HE REPLIED SUCCINCTLY THAT THE SHAH HAD HAD A DETAILED MESSAGE FROM KING HUSSEIN ABOUT AN IRAQI APPROACH AND THAT THE SHAH HAD REPLIED IN A PRIVATE LETTER TO KING HUSSEIN THAT THE IRANIAN AMAMBASSADOR TO JORDAN WOULD CONVEY TO THE KING THE SHAH'S REACTION TO WHATEVER THE IRAQI PROPOSALS WERE. THIS EXCHANGE OCCURRED, ACCORDING TO ALAM, WITHIN THE PAST WEEK. THIS WAS ALL THAT ALAM HAD TO SAY.

2. TALKING BRIEFLY WITH THE SHAH ON DECEMBER 4 FOLLOWING GENERAL HAIG'S AUDIENCE, WAS INTERESTED TO NOTE THAT APROPOS OF NOTHING IN PARTICULAR HE SAID, "I WONDER WHY THE IRAQIS DO NOT SIMPLY SETTLE WITH US. AFTER ALL, THE ISSUES ARE MINOR AS FAR AS THEY ARE CONCERNED." IT MAY WELL BE THAT HE HAD THE IRAQI APPROACH TO KING HUSSEIN IN MIND AT THE TIME ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION IT. BE THAT AS IT MAY, ANYTHING SHORT OF IRAQI AGREEMENT TO IRANIAN POSITIONS ON THE SHATT AL-ARAB AND OTHER BORDER QUESTIONS WILL GET NOWHERE IN IRAN. BASICALLY THE SHAH HOLDS FIRMLY TO HIS VIEW THAT A DIFFERENT, "DECENT" GOVERNMENT IS NECESSARY IN BAGHDAD. THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS HE MILITARILY SUPPORTS THE KURDS. BUT AN IRAQI AGREEMENT TO SETTLE WITH IRAN MIGHT BE TEMPTING RIGHT NOW

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SINCE THE KURDISH WAR IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY EXPENSIVE AND

INCREASINGLY HAZARDOUS FROM THE IRANIAN POINT OF VIEW.

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